



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Burundi

Burundi: Hutu Official Killed in Gitega

EA1704120396 Bujumbura ABP in French
0932 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Bujumbura, 17 Apr — Since Mr. Leopold Ngendakumana, a Hutu official at Gitega [central Burundi] Provincial Department of Agriculture and Livestock, DPAE, was murdered on Monday, 15 April, the residents of the town of Gitega in central Burundi have lived under an obsessive fear of war. Mr. Omar Ndayishimiye, the urban commune administrator declared this morning [17 April].

"The DPAE official was killed on 15 April at around 1700 hours local time [1500 GMT] in front of his office by as yet unidentified people. Fear of being killed too, mistrust, and rumors have been hanging over the town of Gitega since then", the Gitega administrator said.

Mr. Ndayishimiye did not fail to stress that what is now happening to his town was the consequence of clashes between the Burundian Army and Hutu rebels in communes surrounding the town of Gitega in the last few days.

As a result, Mr. Macaire Nahimana, a Hutu who is the governor of Gitega Province, left the town of Gitega on 15 April and is said to be currently in Bujumbura from where he called on his family to join him, the ABP correspondent in Gitega reported this morning.

Rwanda

Rwanda: Gasana on Relations With Zaire, Trial of Colonel Bagosora

BR1704120596 Brussels LE SOIR in French
17 Apr 96 p 2

[Interview with Rwandan Foreign Minister Anastase Gasana by Colette Braeckman in Kigali; date not given: "Relations Between Zaire and Rwanda"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Braeckman] Relations seem to be deteriorating rapidly between Rwanda and Zaire. What is the present situation?

[Gasana] Zaire has just accused us of training 2,000 young people in our country who could infiltrate Kivu province and destabilize it. In fact the situation is the very opposite: It is the Zairians who are tolerating the present insecurity at the frontier and the entry of former soldiers into Rwanda. In addition, by driving the Kinyarwanda citizens out of Masisi they are creating an influx of refugees, with some 40,000 "Banyarwanda" Zairians already counted. This also represents a security problem for us: Who can say that these people do not include members of the Interahamwe?

[Braeckman] How do you explain this Zairian animosity?

[Gasana] I believe that Rwanda bothers a number of countries: We want to create a new political order, we are certainly not a member of the club of the old heads of state who use strong-arm methods, in Zaire, in Kenya, in Togo. There is nothing surprising about the fact that we have poor relations with such countries, which are also providing a refuge for those who carried out the genocide. We are not members of their "club" so they want to punish us....

[Braeckman] Rwanda seems to be quite isolated. What are the African countries with which you enjoy good relations?

[Gasana] But there are many of them, Burundi obviously, Tanzania, Uganda, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Mali. And we must also not exaggerate the situation in regard to Zaire. We want to live peacefully with our neighbors, we have a country to build, and better things to do than engage in vain disputes. We would like to relaunch regional cooperation, in the framework of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, but Zaire does not attend its meetings at present. What can we do about it?

[Braeckman] How are your relations with France?

[Gasana] Unfortunately, they are not very good and that saddens us: We would at least like be able to achieve a *modus vivendi*. What do we have to do to improve the situation?

[Braeckman] You spent nearly 10 days in Cameroon, where a number of the former government leaders are present. Are you satisfied with this very discreet visit?

[Gasana] I consider that it was a success. I was indeed discreet, but I also succeeded in having 11 leaders arrested, and figures of some importance such as Ferdinand Nahimana, head of Mille Collines radio, Pastor Musabe and Augustin Ruzindane, who funded the Interahamwe and were in fact the financiers of the Akazu, the presidential clan. I hope that Cameroon will agree to extradite them to Rwanda so that we can judge them.

An Educational Justice

[Braeckman] What will be the fate of Colonel Bagosora?

[Gasana] I have every hope that Cameroon will decide to send him to Rwanda rather than Belgium. In any event, we are working hard on this issue, as we believe we have priority over Belgium: In Belgium, Bagosora is accused of the murder of 10 men, whereas here it is

a matter of genocide, he stands accused before a whole people. Really, there are times when I fail to understand the Westerners: Do you think that the people here have no feelings, that there is no psychological tension, no trauma? Do you not think that trying Bagosora in the country where the crime of genocide was committed, where the victims are lying, could have a therapeutic effect on the population, and provide just a little solace for the survivors? How can you fail to understand this?

[Braeckman] Some people abroad perhaps have doubts regarding the trial Colonel Bagosora will receive, they even wonder whether he will stay alive for very long....

[Gasana] Once again, Westerners do not properly understand our intentions: What we want is educational justice. We want exemplary justice, one which strictly respects the rules, but also an educational justice so that the whole population can come to understand the wrong that has been done. A justice which puts an end to the culture of impunity which has characterized our country for too long. You blame us for having nearly 70,000 people in prison. But you do not understand that if we could try Bagosora and a number of other architects of the genocide here in Rwanda, this would then help us to release a number of those accused of minor crimes. We want the exercise of justice to help us to build a society which respects human rights and to achieve a change in people's attitudes. Have you forgotten that after World War II, the Nuremberg trials which were conducted at the very site where the crimes were committed, helped relieve tensions in Europe? Why should things be any different for the Africans?

[Braeckman] What will be the fate of the soldiers of the former Army who return to Rwanda, and how many have taken this step?

[Gasana] Almost 40,000 former RAF [Rwandan Armed Forces] troops have returned to the country, and have been reintegrated into the national Army. Several officers, and not the least important among them, have been appointed to a command position. Lieutenant Colonel Habyarimana has been appointed director general of the Defense Ministry for example, Colonel Gatsinzi is assistant chief of staff, Colonel Balthazar Ndengeyinka is commander of the Gitarama Kibuye zone, and Major Ciza, who holds a degree in law, is vice president of the Supreme Court and president of the Court of Cassation. These are all important gestures of reconciliation; but also more than gestures: This reintegration is evidence of a political project, that of national reconciliation.

Rwanda: Repatriation of Burundi Refugees Begins; 432 Leave

*EA1704190596 Kigali Radio Rwanda in English
0515 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Repatriation exercise of Burundian refugees in Rwanda, started yesterday in Kigeme refugee camp in Gikongoro prefecture. Four hundred and thirty-two out of 2,008 refugees in the camp have so far been repatriated voluntarily. The exercise is being carried out by the representatives of the Burundi Government, Rwanda, and the UNHCR. The repatriated refugees were accompanied by a representative from the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Mr. Mupenzi George and security personnel from Gikongoro and Butare prefectures.

The exercise of repatriating Burundian refugees continues in Kigeme camps while the exercise in the refugee camps of Bugarama, Bugesera, and Muvumba is expected in the near future.

Rwanda: Government Calls Rejected UN Donated Equipment 'Junk'

*AB1604130596 Paris AFP in English
1203 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kigali, April 16 (AFP) — Rwandan and UN officials were holding urgent talks Tuesday after Rwanda rejected donated UN equipment as "junk" and said the departing UN peacekeepers owed Rwanda about 2.5 million dollars.

Claude Dusaidi, political adviser to Vice President and Defence Minister Paul Kagame, told AFP that instead of leaving behind needed material such as heavy trucks, road-graders and radio equipment, the UN force had offered such items as jerry cans and domestic appliances, some of them broken.

"The problem is that it's junk," he said. "All of it is junk. They've taken away the good stuff, or given it to UN agencies, or sold it."

"What they left us is garbage. We asked for equipment we could put to use, not junk."

"The United Nations will have to pack its junk and take it with it."

The UN troops, 5,500-strong at their peak, were deployed in this central African nation in 1993 to oversee a power-sharing agreement between majority Hutus and minority Tutsis, but Rwanda exploded into civil war the following year.

The troops, criticised by the victorious Tutsis for not halting the slaughter of more than 500,000 men, women

and children by Hutu extremists, have until Friday to pull out.

They are leaving because Rwanda refused to agree to an extension of their mandate, regarding their presence as an affront to its sovereignty, and most have left since the mandate expired on March 8.

UN special envoy Shahryar Khan was supposed to remain at the head of a small political liaison office, but he handed in his resignation last week after becoming fed up with the lack of a decision by the United Nations to fund the new office, and he too will be leaving on Friday.

Dusaidi held talks with Khan on the UN equipment Tuesday, saying afterwards that the special envoy himself had not been impressed by the list, and appeared to have been disappointed by decisions made by his staff.

The two men were due to hold further talks, but it was impossible to obtain comment from Khan because all numbers at the big UN complex responded with a message in French and Kinyarwanda saying the lines had been disconnected.

Dusaidi said the United Nations owed almost 2.5 million dollars in taxes, rent for facilities, and benefits for local staff.

"That will have to be settled before they leave," he warned, "but they don't appear to have any intention of settling their debts."

Rwanda: Further on Government Rejection of UN Equipment

EA1704115596 Kigali Radio Rwanda in English
0515 GMT 17 Apr 96

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] As UNAMIR [UN Assistance Mission to Rwanda] prepares to leave Rwanda after the termination of its mandate, the government of Rwanda says it can't accept the equipment left behind by the mission for use by the Rwandan Government, because, as the vice president's political adviser Claude Dusaidi explained, they are of no use for the reconstruction of the country.

[Dusaidi] "Here we had in mind things like heavy equipment, like graders, heavy trucks, communication systems and others [words indistinct] that we could use in rehabilitating this country. But we have learnt that UNAMIR has decided to leave us a small amount of stuff which is not even very useful. Some of the stuff they have left are like jerry cans, domestic appliances, and most of it not even in good, in good [repetition as heard] condition. So we feel that what they are

leaving behind is not going to be very useful to us. They've also left behind some generators, and to get one working generator you need maybe to cannibalize three and repair one out. This is, it is not the stuff that we expected and we don't find it is very useful. So we are still considering whether to refuse it or to accept it. But most likely we will refuse it."

There have also been claims by ex-UNAMIR staff of salaries arrears. What's the present development on the issue? Claude Dusaidi:

[Dusaidi] "We're told that arrangements are being made to pay them — these are people whom they owe some benefits like maternity benefits, leave, and other social benefits. So I hear that they are going to leave some people behind to keep processing these claims."

"There are also of course other debts that UNAMIR owes individual Rwandese institutions as well as government, including taxes that are owed to us by sub-contractors of UNAMIR. Now, this again we are continuing to talk to them and we have written to Ambassador Shahryar Khan [UN representative to Rwanda] reminding him that they have an obligation to pay all these debts before they leave this country. So we hope again that they will address this issue very seriously, to avoid litigation."

The vice president's political adviser also talks about the condition of facilities like the National Stadium of Amahoro and Hotel Amahoro that UNAMIR has been using and which need to be repaired.

[Dusaidi] "Some of them, they are repairing. Like Amahoro stadium [in Kigali], they are in the process of repairing. Also the hotel, they have done some painting and so and so. At least that one is taken care of. There are other facilities they have used, for which they have to pay money to have it repaired."

He also said that the question of the small UN office that will remain in the country hasn't been settled yet altogether. [passage omitted]

Claude Dusaidi was also asked who decides on the fate of the UNAMIR equipment to be left behind in the country.

[Dusaidi] "It is all confused. Sometimes they tell us it is this office here, then they tell us it has to get an approval from the UN headquarters."

The fact is that some people in the UN may have had the good intention of giving us things — even Ambassador Shahryar Khan, I'm sure, intended to give us something that is useful, but some of his junior, his subordinates in UNAMIR have instead (?pilfered the things) and have just decided to give us what I could call junk."

Zaire**Zaire: Presidential, Parliamentary Elections Slated for May 1997**

AB1804095596 *Libreville Africa No. 1 in French*
1830 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Zaire, it has been disclosed that the first presidential and parliamentary multiparty elections will be held in May 1997. The election timetable was published in Kinshasa today by the national commission in charge of the elections, and President Mobutu Sese Seko is a presidential candidate. Homer Leance Reme-Nambia has the details:

[Reme-Nambia] That is right. As you have just mentioned, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, who has been in power for over 30 years has already announced his candidacy. No other leading figures have officially announced their candidacies yet. Presidential candidacies are scheduled to be submitted in February 1997. The elections will be preceded by a referendum on the draft Constitution of the Third Republic in December. Regional and municipal elections will be held in June and July 1997, according to the published election timetable. They will be the first ever democratic and multiparty elections since the country's independence in 1960. People have been awaiting the elections since the beginning of the transition period and the institution of multiparty politics in 1990.

The European Union and the United States, which have repeatedly called for the holding of elections by the July 1997 deadline set by the Constitutional Act, have already pledged to provide material and technical assistance for the elections. They have demanded that the elections be held, quote, in a democratic, free, and transparent manner, unquote. [passage omitted]

Zaire: Election Committee Chief Skeptical About Election Timetable

BR1704133096 *Groot-Bijgaarden DE STANDAARD*
in Dutch 17 Apr 96 p 6

[Report by Rik De Gendt: "Leader of Zairian Election Commission Is Skeptical"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels — Bayona ba Meya, recently elected president of the Zairian National Elec-

tions Commission (CNE [Commission Nationale pour les Elections]) has spoken skeptically to diplomats about the possibility of organizing elections within 15 months, DE STANDAARD learned in the capital Kinshasa.

Bayona, a leading member of President Mobutu's MPR [Popular Movement of the Revolution], said publicly that he doubts the political will of the government of Prime Minister Leon Kengo wa Dondo. The interim bureau had to manage without any help over the past three months. Commission members who came from the interior did not even get decent accommodation, said Bayona.

With the definitive establishment of its bureau on 30 March, the CNE could finally begin its activities. But Bayona fears that it will very quickly be short of funds, if the government does not provide funding.

The moderate opposition URD [Union for the Republic and Democracy], of which Kengo and Interior Minister Gerard Kamanda wa Kamanda are members, is not prepared to cooperate closely with the CNE. Its candidate Masafiri Mulamba did not get a seat in the bureau. For that reason the URD quickly threw doubt on the non-partisan nature and proper functioning of the election commission.

According to the decisions of the Sovereign National Conference, the elections should have already taken place in mid-1995. But the Zairian Parliament then extended the transitional period in order to be able to fulfill "prior and necessary constitutional conditions for transparent elections." These elections must now be held on 9 July 1997 at the latest.

Djibouti

Djibouti: Troops Deployed to Eritrean Border After Incursions

AB1704155996 Paris AFP in French
1414 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Djibouti, 17 Apr (AFP) — The Djibouti Government today sent some 600 soldiers to the Djibouti-Eritrea border at Ras Doumeira, on the Red Sea, after Eritrean forces yesterday fired on a Djibouti position on the border, it was learned from reliable sources in Djibouti. Djiboutian soldiers deployed at the extreme north of the country are supported by armored vehicles.

Yesterday's incident, described by the Djiboutian authorities as an "aggression", did not cause any casualties among the Djibouti border guards. The incident caused a flash visit to Djibouti by Petros Solomon, Eritrean minister of foreign affairs, who was received by President Hassan Gouled Aptidon. The Eritrean minister delivered a message from President Isaias Afwerki. The contents of the message were not disclosed. Speaking to reporters before returning to Asmara, the Eritrean capital, the minister described yesterday's incident as "minor."

Reliable sources point out that Eritrean forces have been making many incursions into Djiboutian territory in the Ras Doumeira region over the past few weeks. These incidents have been connected with the conflict between Eritrea and Yemen disputing sovereignty over the Hanish Islands situated not far away in the Red Sea.

Eritrea

Eritrea: Government Official Denies Armed Incursion Into Djibouti

AB1704191596 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 17 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Eritrea could be getting an unenviable reputation for aggressiveness in the region. It is not a friend of neighboring Sudan; it has almost been at war with Yemen over Red Sea islands; and now it is accused of a border violation with Djibouti. On the line to Asmara, Mary Harper asked the director in the president's office, (Yemani Gabri Meskin), what he had to say about the alleged incursion.

[Begin recording] [(Meskin)] We are totally puzzled by this piece of allegation. We don't know from where it

is coming. There has not been any incident of any kind, let alone an invasion along the border between Eritrea and Djibouti. There have not been any incident in the past month, the past year, last night, or today.

[Harper] But (Mr. Yemani), the Djibouti Government has stated that your troops — Eritrean troops — have moved seven miles into Djibouti territory and they have sent hundreds of troops and tanks to repel them.

[(Meskin)] This is totally untrue, I don't know what the Djiboutian authorities are doing. We have not crossed the border, we have not made any incursions of any length into Djibouti; there has not been any incident nor exchange of fire of any kind. So this is totally baseless.

[Harper] There seems to be a little bit of a contradiction, because your very own foreign minister has spoken on Djibouti radio; he is in Djibouti at the moment, and he himself has described this incursion as an incident. So he has recognized this as happening.

[(Meskin)] No, he has asked ...[pauses] He has gone to Djibouti today because this was a long planned routine visit. He is already back in Asmara, they have misquoted him. He never said there was an incident. He simply said there was no aggression, there was no incident. So again, that is a misquotation; we don't know whether this information is coming out from authorities in Djibouti. They are quoting diplomats, we don't know who the diplomats are. So you know, there is a lot of confusion, there is a lot misinformation and we want a clarification of the whole affair.

[Harper] Is it not possible that in this remote border region, some of your troops might have just strayed across the border? There might be some troops that you don't really control very well who have taken power into their hands?

[(Meskin)] No, we are denying this categorically because we have found out, we have checked with our units along the border; we have had feedback from them, and you know, the position is very clear, it is categorical. There has not been any exchange of fire either by ... [pauses] I mean, there has not been any exchange of fire, full stop, that's it.

[Harper] But then the Djibouti Government wouldn't just send its troops and tanks up to the border for no reason?

[(Meskin)] Well, that is for the Djibouti authorities to respond, but we have asked for a formal explanation from them.

[Harper] Have you heard anything from them directly?

[(Meskin)] They say they are going to verify and give us an answer.

[Harper] Now, are you surprised by all this? I was under the impression that relations between your two countries were not that bad?

[(Meskin)] They are actually very warm, we have good ties. We are all involved in regional initiative in IGADD

[Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development] and we are expecting a high-level ministerial commission from Djibouti to come to Asmara in the next few weeks as a matter of routine exchange of ministers at the highest levels. Relations are very good, warm, cordial, and normal. [end recording]

South Africa: ANC Accuses Elections Task Team Chief of Partisanship

MB1604172096 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The controversy over whether local government elections in KwaZulu/Natal will go ahead as scheduled continues.

While the ANC yesterday called for the postponement of the polls, it has now accused National Elections Task Team co-Chairperson Dr. Frederik van Zyl Slabbert of being partisan for insisting that the polls should go ahead as scheduled. The ANC cited irregularities in the voters' roll as reasons for the postponement, especially in a certain undeveloped area. However, KwaZulu/Natal local government MEC [member of the Executive Council] Peter Miller said the allegations were without substance and had been proved wrong, but conceded that there were administrative errors in certain instances.

South Africa: ANC Blames 'White Parties' for Not Opposing 29 May Election

MB1704150696 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans 16 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Deon Lamprecht]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The ANC-COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions]-SACP [South African Communist Party] alliance in KwaZulu/Natal yesterday launched a scathing attack on "white parties" for not opposing municipal elections scheduled for May 29 this year.

"It's interesting that only those parties with strong black constituencies, except the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party], understand the ANC's view regarding violence and fraudulent voter rolls. White parties such as the DP [Democratic Party] and NP [National Party] have virtually no support in black communities; that is why they don't care. Chaos and violence in black residential areas are to their political advantage," says a joint statement by the alliance.

Blacks are the victims of violence, and voter roll fraud is rife only in black areas.

Before today's important meeting between President Nelson Mandela and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi to discuss the municipal elections, ANC National Chairperson Jacob Zuma demanded that a national committee be appointed to investigate all voter rolls in KwaZulu/Natal. [passage omitted]

South Africa: Zulu Chiefs Warn Against Postponing 29 May Polls

MB1704070796 Johannesburg SABC 2 Television Network in English 0400 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amakhosi [chiefs] in the northern coastal region of KwaZulu/Natal have warned that there will be no local government elections in that region if the forthcoming polls are postponed.

During a peaceful march through Paulpietersburg to protest against the banning of cultural weapons, Chief Muzi Blessed Gwala said the masses were determined to vote on 29 May, regardless of the outcome of the current dispute.

South Africa: Talks To Resolve Disputes Over Constitution Continue

MB1704175296 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1632 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN April 17 SAPA — Private bilateral and multilateral party talks to resolve outstanding issues for South Africa's final constitution continued in a number of Parliamentary venues on Wednesday.

And the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) said after talks between it and the ANC and NP [National Party] on Tuesday night that it remained implacably opposed to employers' right to lock-out being included in the constitution.

Party spokesmen reported to the Constitutional Assembly's [CA] constitutional committee that, apart from the lock-out issue, matters still needing to be addressed at inter-party negotiations included the property clause, education and states of emergency.

Senior ANC negotiator Pravin Gordhan said significant progress had been made on the National Assembly and the executive, while a final draft on co-operative governance should be ready for presentation to the constitutional committee on Thursday.

A multilateral on provincial powers would continue on Wednesday evening.

Cosatu said in a statement that there was no reason why lock-outs needed special constitutional protection. It was a fundamental misconception that the employers' right to lock-out balanced workers' right to strike. "This view fails to understand the nature of the relationship between employers and workers. It incorrectly assumes that we are dealing with equal partners. Workers have only their labour to sell. Employers own and control the means of production. The right to strike attempts to balance this huge inequality in power."

Cosatu was therefore publicly calling on the NP to withdraw its insistence on including the lock-out in the constitution and would be engaging in discussions with it over the next few days to convince it to change its position.

Cosatu also reiterated to both the ANC and NP that it remained of the view that there should be no property clause in the constitution.

It would remain intensively engaged in discussion around the CA process in the coming days and was calling a special meeting of its executive on Friday to report to its constituency on progress in these discussions. A national programme of action would be finalised at its campaigns conference this weekend.

Senior ANC negotiator Willie Hofmeyr told the CA's constitutional committee that the ANC was considering an NP proposal that a Freedom Front suggestion on states of emergency be incorporated. This was that a 60 percent majority of Parliament could extend a state of emergency after a proper debate to ensure transparency.

South Africa: Official Says 8 May Constitution Deadline Not 'Cast in Stone'

MB1804104896 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 0600 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Constitutional Assembly Executive Director Hassen Ebrahim says the deadline of 8 May for acceptance of South Africa's new constitution is not cast in stone. He made his comment in response to criticism from DP [Democratic Party] Leader Tony Leon who has accused the ANC of railroading the constitution through the Constitutional Assembly. Mr. Leon said serious flaws remained in the text of the document. Mr. Ebrahim said there were close to 50 outstanding issues, but said these were mainly technical issues that did not have to be thrashed out. He said any change to the 8 May deadline would be determined by the number of outstanding issues, and was up to the politicians.

South Africa: Final Constitution Adoption To Proceed as Scheduled 8 May

MB1804104796 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0920 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN April 18 SAPA — The proposed R1.3 million May 8 ceremonies to mark the adoption of South Africa's final Constitution on that day should go ahead, the Constitutional Assembly's [CA] management committee decided on Thursday.

CA chairman Cyril Ramaphosa said a number of the organisations involved in the Constitution-writing

process had expressed an interest in being present on that day. It was wrong to suggest a "party" was being planned and it should be noted that a conscious decision had been taken not to use any taxpayers' money.

CA deputy chairman Leon Wessels said May 8 was etched in the country's mind as the important date for the new Constitution's adoption, rather than the later date of certification by the Constitutional Court.

Senior Democratic Party negotiator Colin Eglin said the date of certification, when the Constitution would come into effect, should be the important celebratory day, with scaled-down internal celebrations more appropriate on May 8. He was supported by Freedom Front leader General Constand Viljoen.

Ramaphosa said he had not received any negative signal from parties that the new Constitution would not be adopted on May 8, if not by full consensus then at least by the required two-thirds majority.

By his count about 12 issues were still in contention, and not 48 as stated "misleadingly" this week by Democratic Party leader Tony Leon. With three weeks left, he was confident the outstanding issues could be resolved, Ramaphosa said.

South Africa: Ramaphosa Accuses DP's Leon of Seeking 'Cheap Publicity'

MB1704160396 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 1500 GMT 17 Apr 96

[From the "PM Live" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] This afternoon the chairman of the Constitutional Assembly [CA], Cyril Ramaphosa, sharply attacked the Democratic Party's [DP] leader. Mr. Ramaphosa reacted strongly to a media report by the DP leader Tony Leon in the ARGUS newspaper. Tony Leon accused the ANC of threatening to call a referendum if the Property Clause is rejected by other parties. The report also said that Mr. Leon accused the ANC of organizing a 1.3 million-rand party to celebrate the completion of the Constitution. Mr. Ramaphosa was clearly not impressed with the allegations, and he responded like this:

[Begin Ramaphosa recording] ...not a single person from the ANC. At least he should have said it's Cyril Ramaphosa who is making that proposal, and it is not. And it is Tony Leon who is seeking cheap publicity. This is absolute rubbish. This is absolute rubbish, and I am not prepared to accept such nonsense from a leader of a party, a person that I've had respect for up to now, and I've lost all that respect for Tony Leon, completely, because he is now defaming the administration, which

has done an excellent job in this whole process. And what is worse, he's trying to project it as though we are going to use taxpayers' money to have this party, and it was made clear that we are going to use money that we are raising from a whole number of people. A whole number of companies have already come forward to say they would like to fund. [end recording]

ANC members of the Constitutional Assembly have summoned Tony Leon to appear and answer questions on the matter when it meets tomorrow morning.

**South Africa: Ramaphosa's Return to Politics
Reportedly Not Ruled Out**

MB1704135596 Cape Town CAPE TIMES in English
15 Apr 96

[Report by Anthony Johnson; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr Cyril Ramaphosa is to quit the brown leather benches of Parliament next month to become a white-collar executive spearheading black economic empowerment — but the former trade unionist has not ruled out a return to full-time politics. Should the chairperson of the Constitutional Assembly make a success of his new mission — blazing a trail for blacks in big business — he would be well placed a few years down the track to make a push for the top job in politics: President of South Africa.

Questioned after a news conference at the weekend at which President Nelson Mandela announced that he would soon join leading black entrepreneur Dr Nthato Motlana's New Africa Investments Limited, Ramaphosa made it clear he was keeping his options open. He declined to be drawn on how long his venture into the business world might last. Some in the ANC believe his move has been prompted by Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's having virtually sewn up the job as Mandela's successor. Ramaphosa dismissed this and said:

"I am not leaving because I failed to become president." He emphasises that his new role will not mean a divorce from the day-to-day politics of the ANC.

**South Africa: NP's Meyer on Party's Need To
Attract Black Voters**

MB1804053396 Johannesburg BEELD in Afrikaans
17 Apr 96 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] The gap between his vision of the National Party [NP] and the social democratic wing of the ANC is very small, NP Secretary General Roelf Meyer said in an interview with the IDASA [Institute for a Democratic Alternative for South Africa] paper, PARLIAMENTARY WHIP.

Meyer said the party's core values puts the NP very close to the center of South African politics. According to the article, Meyer is happy to accept this "political geography."

"We are definitely striving to win the support of thousands of people who are currently ANC supporters. We want to establish a new movement comprising all sectors of the population. We are not interested in class differences," Meyer said.

"In the public's eye we must be seen as an alternative to the ANC. My personal approach is that we therefore have to approach things in a constructive fashion at all times."

There is, however, room to be constructive and to talk hard. He wants a parliamentary party in which each one will feel that he or she is playing a role. He conceded that the NP was still struggling to fit into its opposition role, because after a long time in government, it did not know how to fulfill such a role.

In an interview with the magazine, MILLENNIUM, Meyer said the NP will have to change its style and direct itself toward blacks if it wants to make an impact among black voters. According to him, the party's potential is definitely stronger in areas such as Soweto, which is middle class. The more rural, isolated, and neglected areas where poverty is rife will have stronger ANC support.

The NP's white election machinery is not effective for black areas. Black people will not be attracted by the NP when they only see white faces. Already there are enough black faces who can be placed in positions to reflect how serious the party is.

"To date the party has had the image of only being concerned with language, church, and school issues, and those are not the concerns of people living in Soweto. I mean, what do they care about Model C schools? We have to change seriously. My own experience of blacks is that the most important things in their political lives are trustworthiness and credibility," Meyer said.

According to Meyer, everyone knows what he stands for, and he is "not going to betray" those principles. "I will continue with what I think is good for the party and the country, to ultimately build a multiparty democracy, and to ensure genuine black/white political cooperation. It would be disastrous if we did not achieve this," Meyer said.

South Africa: PAC Student Leader on 'Need To Survive'

MB1604093696 Johannesburg NEW NATION in English 12 Apr 96 p 11

[Interview with Pan-Africanist Congress student wing leader Ignatious Molapo by Jimmy Seepe; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Don't you think that the current problems of the PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] once again reinforces the idea that it is about time the PAC gracefully closes shop and join the ANC?

I do not think the current problems suggest that notion. We believe that the current dispensation needs a legitimate African opposition. There is currently no credible black opposition which has accepted the dispensation and can offer effective opposition except the PAC. Obviously the Azanian People Organisation (Azapo) cannot offer this opposition because it has not accepted the present dispensation and views it as a sell-out. The PAC has accepted the present dispensation and is therefore the only relevant organisation outside the ANC to offer an African perspective.

More than ever in the history of South Africa, we need to espouse a more people-centered ideology. Our understanding of the status quo is that the workers and peasants who make up the rural community are left out of the whole system of governance and the economy. The government has created an elitist and suburban system.

An opposition that can address the plight of the urban and rural poor and those left out of the economy needs to be organised. Fundamentally, we believe that opposition for the African people needs to be one from the history of struggle and has legitimacy and credibility. We believe the PAC is the only party that can do that and therefore believe that the organisation needs to survive.

Why does PASO [Pan-Africanist Student Organization] believe that the leadership of the PAC has failed the masses?

I think the question is difficult to answer as it brings personalities into the picture once again. In a broad context, the PAC leadership has not been a committed leadership. The leadership has failed to carry out political programmes drawn from within the organisation. The organisation was given a mandate at its last congress in 1994 in Mmabatho to convene a national policy conference and has failed to deliver on that. For the whole of 1995, the leadership did little to advance debates within the party for the holding of such a conference.

The recent uncovering of financial maladministration run contrary to the PAC complaints throughout last year about the 1994 elections. How can the organisation which did not use 80 percent of money allocated to it for election purposes, complain about the outcome? This means that the PAC as an organisation, does not have vision. They were given the financial means to position themselves within the new dispensation but decided to use the money for other purposes other than the election. It shows that they did not have a sense of purpose to apply themselves within the framework of the transition.

Another factor is that people have been emotionally attached to the PAC beyond their ability to work. The PAC has looked for leaders who do not have a working record but a politically correct one. They have taken leaders who have the history of struggle within the organisation but without the ability to work. In the previous congress, they took an ailing individual to become their publicity secretary.

That person had served in the executive council that former PAC president, Robert Sobukwe served in 1959. If you bring a man who had served within the executive council of 1959, all you are saying is that such a person will become "a secretary for history" and not a publicity secretary for the organisation. The PAC lacks the choice of leadership and concentrates too much on trying to be politically and historically correct, without the ability of such individuals to work.

Is PASO trying to position itself in the same circumstance that the ANC Youth League did with its parent body in the 1950s when it effectively took over power? Is PASO trying to stage a leadership coup?

Not at all. We need to engage our parent organisation when we think it is not taking the correct path. It is for this reason that as PASO, we are still amazed by the ANCYL's [ANC Youth League] decision to accept the Springbok as a symbol for our sporting events, just because its parent body has accepted it. Any youth league that does not think within its energy capacity fails the youth.

We are not staging a coup within the PAC but engaged in "Operation Clean-out" of the party. We need to shake the organisation and awaken it from its sleep. We need to make sure that the dirty pieces fall out and only people who are prepared to work are retained so that we can grow the organisation into the next century. We have continuously called for a Pan Africanist convention to address this matter. This idea is not new; it was mooted in 1994 in Mmabatho and rejected by the PAC leadership.

What has happened to the PAC since its 1991 congress is that the organisation split into two — consisting of the Revolutionary Watchdogs and what came to be termed as the mainline PAC. We are saying that we cannot continue with such factions within the PAC. As the youth, we want to see a unified and consolidated organisation. We therefore cannot keep quiet about the defects. We need to raise them and make them public so that the organisation becomes cautious and relevant to the present political situation.

But is Operation Clean Out not the same as calling for the dethroning of the leadership?

We do not have any intentions of taking over the affairs of the PAC. If we try to do that, we could find ourselves regarded as jokes. All we are saying is that we need to be very vigorous in ensuring that the party shakes up. The PAC is now only finding itself in a stage of transformation. No organisation can transform itself. There are certain people within the party who want to continue to cling to the past and power. Some of these individuals do not want to share power. They want to remain absolutist in approach. When you tell them that it is about time to change, then they find it difficult to do that.

It seems PASO does not enjoy the support of PAC stalwarts in its campaign to "clean-out" the leadership.

That is not true. PASO enjoys a lot of support from PAC members. One of the problems we are facing is that there are several people who do not want to be identified with the truth struggle. I can tell that on some of the controversial issues we have put forward, we received advice from the top people within the PAC. Some of those people prefer not to be identified at this stage. There are many people within the party who wish that the organisation would change. We have also received support from various professionals who identify with the PAC, some of them were part of the PAC's national executive.

Don't you think the problem with the PAC at this stage is that it lacks a "think tank" of individuals whose task is to chart out how it should deal with the government and issues of the day?

I cannot refute that statement I have emphasised this point on many occasions. There are people who are in the leadership not to work but because they have a certain political history behind them. The leadership needs to start working. There are only a handful of people who are doing a good job. We have to stop holding on to individuals sitting in top party positions just to raise the credibility of the PAC only because of

their history in the struggle. Why can't the PAC do the same as the ANC which chooses some of its leaders on their strength and ability to work?

What does the missing R5-million [rands] of the Independent Electoral commission suggest?

What this suggests is the inefficiency of the organisation in its handling of financial records. This also suggests that the PAC leadership does not have a sense of purpose. I can tell you that after the Mmabatho congress, a couple of PAC national executive committee members resigned. The organisation under president (Clarence) Makwetu left those positions vacant while Makwetu could have easily used his presidential decree to appoint people. The president lamented about those resignations without doing anything to replace them. He also knew about the resignation of Maxwell Nmadzivanani as early as last November but lamented about it without doing anything. In January he denied knowledge of the resignation when asked. This shows the sloppiness and inefficiency that characterises the organisation. This is one of the reasons PASO is calling for a new leadership. Makwetu compromised the PAC by denying knowledge of Nmadzivanani's resignation when he actually knew about it.

When will PASO close ranks again with the leadership of the PAC?

We in PASO have indicated that we are putting all our energies towards the holding of the national convention. It will also cover policy issues that should guide the organisation and its strategic orientation. We will also go through a strategic leadership process in preparation for a national congress to elect a new leadership for the PAC?

As far as closing ranks with the leadership, that can only be done after the national congress, when a new leadership is in place. It is for this reason that PASO passed a vote of no confidence on the leadership.

What are some of the qualities and credentials anyone interested in leading the PAC should have?

I think the PAC should look for a leader who can appeal to both friends and enemies of the party. It should be someone who can appeal beyond the loyal members of the party. We need a leader who can attract business, has a good community profile, a good human rights record, be legitimate and address issues of rank and file on the ground. Look at President Mandela; even people who despise him are in agreement that he is a leader and is forceful when it comes to issues. The PAC can find such leaders.

South Africa: Modise Says Integration of Ex-Militia Near Completion*MB1804064796 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0220 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pretoria April 17 SAPA — The integration of former political militia into the SA [South African] National Defence Force was nearing completion and the final mass intake would be on June 10 this year, Defence Minister Joe Modise said on Wednesday.

In a statement in Pretoria he appealed to male cadres not yet integrated to report for further processing on April 22. "This will most likely be the second last opportunity to report," Modise said.

Female members should report during the final intake on June 10. Men reporting next week had to take along a valid identity document and proof of their educational qualifications, if available. "They must be ready with packed luggage so that they can be integrated immediately," Modise said.

South Africa: Government Bans Sale of Armored Vehicles to Local Groups*MB1704074496 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
16 Apr 96 p 11*

[Report by Norman Chandler]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government has banned the sale of South African-manufactured armoured vehicles to local organizations and individuals, saying they could be used "for criminal or extremist purposes". The ban has been imposed by the National Conventional Arms Control Committee (NCACC). Three years ago the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging [Resistance Movement] staged a break-in at the constitutional negotiations at the World Trade center in Kempton Park by driving a personnel carrier through the glass-fronted building.

Armcor [Armaments Corporation of South Africa] has sold 118 Saracen armoured personnel carriers to security companies, but it has now been established that some of these vehicles have been sold to private individuals in contravention of the Armcor Act.

Companies such as Reumech-OMC and TFM have been asked to reveal who they might have sold the vehicles to. There is concern that some of the vehicles might have been relocated outside South Africa's borders without authorisation, said NCACC chairman Professor Kader Asmal yesterday.

"Although the contribution of security companies in combating and preventing crime and the provision of job opportunities are not in question, abuse by

extremist elements cannot summarily be ignored, though indications at present indicate a limited possibility.

"The NCACC is sensitive to the needs of private companies providing security services and their requirements to operate armoured vehicles."

Asmal said the vehicles could easily be mistaken by the public as well as security forces 'for something they are not', which could, he added, "be disastrous in cases where such vehicles are deliberately misused for criminal or extremist purposes".

Companies such as Eskom [Electricity Supply Commission] and Sasol [South African Coal, Oil, and Gas Corporation], which used the vehicles to guard national key points, have also sold their fleets and an effort is to be made to locate the whereabouts of the vehicles.

South Africa: Mandela Vows To 'Clean' Police Force of Disloyal Elements*MB1504170996 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network
in English 1600 GMT 15 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Nelson Mandela says there are elements in the police who will slaughter innocent people to protect the old order. Mr. Mandela says, however, that the overwhelming majority of police members are loyal.

He told a meeting of teachers in Cape Town that altogether 16 policemen would be arrested in connection with the killings on Christmas Day on the KwaZulu/Natal south coast. Nineteen ANC supporters were murdered when more than 1,000 alleged IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] supporters attacked Shobashobane. Mr. Mandela said the government faced a huge task in cleaning up the police force.

[Begin Mandela recording, in progress] ...and to clean the police force, although the overwhelming majority of them are good men and women who want to clean the name of the police, and who are professional in their approach. But we still have elements who want to defend the old order, and who are prepared to slaughter innocent civilians in order to achieve that. [end recording]

South Africa: Mandela Says Plunging Rand Not Cause for Alarm*MB1704115296 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1119 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[Report by Angela Quintal]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town April 17 SAPA — President Nelson Mandela has endorsed the view of Finance Minister Trevor Manuel and Reserve Bank

Governor Chris Stals that the plunging rand [R], which hit an all-time low of R4.25 to the dollar on Monday, should not be cause for alarm.

The President said on Wednesday that it was not the first time in the country's history that the rand had plunged. "We have a very strong and competent Minister of Finance. He has made a statement that he is not alarmed — both he and the Governor of the Reserve Bank Chris Stals. I have complete confidence in them and they will get on top of the situation," he said after being presented with Rotary International's highest award at Genadendal in Cape Town.

"Let's wait and watch the steps to stabilise the situation."

The rand on Wednesday touched a morning best of R4.2050 on dollar selling at around 8.30AM, but importer demand took the unit back up to its current level of R4.2425 to the dollar. The unit closed on Tuesday at R4.2225, after touching record lows of R4.25/dlr.

South Africa: Black Consortium To Bid 4 Billion Rands for Anglo's Johnnic

MB1604202996 Johannesburg SABC 3 Television Network in English 1800 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Empowerment Consortium [NEC] is now sole bidder for the purchase of Johnnic. The NEC has put together a 4 billion-rands offer for the company. If the bid succeeds, unions and black business will become fully involved in the country's economy.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Snuki Zikalala] Trade unions and black business have finally got their act together. Last night the National Empowerment Consortium and the New Africa Investment Limited [NAIL] decided on a joint bid for the purchase of Johnnic.

[NEC spokesperson Tommy Oliphant] That agreement has been reached that NAIL is now a part of the NEC for the purpose of securing Johnnic and also in order to submit that to Anglo-American for the acquisition of Johnnic.

[Zikalala] The National Empowerment Consortium is currently finalizing the deal. And if Anglo accepts the offer, blacks will now control part of South Africa's economy. Johnnic also owns the SUNDAY TIMES and the BUSINESS DAY, but spokesperson, Mr. Oliphant, was quick to say that the NEC will not interfere with the editorial content of the newspapers.

[Oliphant] We only see that there would be managerial change, but not a complete change because I believe

it would be foolish to bring about a complete change of management. However, we need to look at the strategic managerial positions within Johnnic and fill those positions with our own candidates.

[Zikalala] Four billion rands is required for the purchase of Johnnic. Trade unions will raise about 2 billion rands from their pension funds, and business will raise its money from the merchant banks and the financial institutes. [end recording]

South Africa: Black Business Desire To Acquire Newspaper Group Viewed

MB1704135696 Johannesburg FINANCIAL MAIL in English 19 Apr 96

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For most of the past 20 years, investors have not been interested in newspapers. Now black business group Nail is displaying an extraordinary desire to acquire Times Media Ltd [TML], our proprietors, from Anglo American interests. It's quite flattering — whatever the motives.

Nail, with another black group, is part of a consortium trying to raise R5bn [rands] to buy 48% of Johnnic, which has industrial interests that include baking and brewing. According to Nail chairman Nthato Motlana, TML is the prime target. Yet TML's contribution to Johnnic's profits is relatively small. So why bother about the bread and the beer at all?

Last weekend, Nail announced that ANC secretary-general Cyril Ramaphosa, a former trade union leader, was joining it to orchestrate the consortium and persuade some trade unions to invest a large proportion of their assets in Johnnic. He is, however, to remain for another year in his ANC post while he learns to hold the reins of business. That casts some doubt over his leaving politics just to create wealth and provide jobs. So, too, does press speculation — clearly fed by Nail — over the future of the Editor of the FM [FINANCIAL MAIL], disliked because of its criticism of the ANC's economic policy or lack thereof.

One theory (denied by Ramaphosa) is that he may not be forsaking politics but planning instead to use TML to further his own political aspirations and those of black business. Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's commission investigating white media ownership will then become redundant and Mbeki will have to acknowledge a younger and more energetic rival, with black business behind him, able to control an important section of the press. Will the ramped-up Nail consortium be successful? Well, it has first to find the money, sort out internal rivalries and get a bid on to the table. Motlana

has been unable to do so over the past year, missing every deadline he himself set. Maybe Ramaphosa will finally galvanise the endeavour.

But the brio on the steps of parliament about controlling TML may have presented another hurdle. Anglo, which has safeguarded the English language press for 20 years (for which it has been well compensated), has made it plain that it will not countenance the independence of its newspapers being compromised or their editorial integrity threatened by any new shareholder. Moreover, there are other shareholders in Johnnic — some of whom are large institutions — and Johnnic itself will control a smaller proportion of TML after May 1, when TML shares are distributed to the shareholders of its holding company, Omni Media. TML will then have 1,600 shareholders instead of the 200 it has now.

An appropriate foreign newspaper group is likely to be sold 40% of both the FM and BUSINESS DAY. The LONDON FINANCIAL TIMES shows periodic interest, but is nervous over who will eventually control Johnnic. Anglo is a willing seller of its Johnnic stake, but not a desperate one. It's unlikely to agree to part with its newspapers without some safeguards for editorial independence and integrity being included in TML's memorandum and articles. Editorial policy usually has some bearing on the commercial success of a publication. Tampering with it could have sharp financial consequences. Even if the Nail consortium does buy 48% of Johnnic, it will probably pay in several tranches, with Anglo retaining control until the debt is extinguished. So covert threats now by Nail to replace a critical Editor are premature.

The FM wants a prosperous economy, flourishing democracy and an equitable society. It will support a government that delivers the jobs it has promised. But it will continue to advocate free trade and exchange with characteristic vigour and criticise excessive regulation, labour immobility and inadequate administration. It was the sole critic of the RDP [Reconstruction and Development Program], which achieved little and is in tatters. It has pointed out the paralysis of government's economic policy — its privatisation inertia, threatening debt trap and unprioritised welfareism. The outcome is a Mandela rand, worth half of the Rubicon rand.

South Africa: Employees on Reserve Bank's 'Inadequate' Affirmative Action

MB1804073196 Johannesburg SAfm Radio Network in English 0500 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Reserve Bank has been accused of adopting an inadequate affirmative action program. Ten black employees that have resigned in

the past six months have cited frustration at this as their reason for leaving. Banker Andrew Seku has said the program has no concrete objectives and no targets. Reserve Bank Governor Chris Stals has responded to the allegations by saying it is difficult to devise definite goals for employees who leave so soon after starting work at the bank.

South Africa: R12.6 Million Paid to UN for Peace-Keeping

MB1704201996 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1949 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON April 17 SAPA — South Africa has donated about R12.6 million [rands] to the United Nations to help pay for international peace-keeping operations in Africa, SAPA's correspondent in Washington reported on Wednesday.

The cheque — equal to about 80 percent of South Africa's regular UN budget assessment — was handed to UN secretary-general Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

According to a spokesman for the SA [South Africa] Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, the donation honours an undertaking given last December by permanent representative Khiphusizi Jele that South Africa would donate a voluntary contribution.

Jele's promise followed adoption by the UN General Assembly of Resolution 50/83 which absolved South Africa of its UN membership arrears accrued during the apartheid years. The assembly's decision — made at a time when the world body is facing its own financial problems — was an attempt to help normalize the situation in South Africa.

According to the spokesman, the cheque was "over and above" other voluntary contributions. "It is in recognition of the valuable role played by the organization in the democratization of South Africa and in appreciation of the generosity of the General Assembly in adopting Resolution 50/83, bearing in mind the precarious financial situation of the organization," he said.

"Since the adoption of Resolution 50/83, the SA [South Africa] government has paid all its assessments in full, on time and without condition. The SA government will continue to do so and to urge other member states to do likewise."

South Africa: Secrecy Surrounds Reports of Nigerian Oil Sales

MB1604161296 Johannesburg THE STAR (BUSINESS REPORT Supplement) in English 16 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by James Lamont]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg — Pik Botha's Russian is a little rusty but that has not kept him away from the central Asian republic of Kazakhstan this week where, between sampling the cultural delights of Alma Ata, he is hard at work negotiating oil sales to South Africa.

When the minister of mineral and energy affairs returns to his desk he will be greeted with messages in a more familiar language, many of which will concern reports that Nigeria has begun selling oil to South Africa.

The reports, carried by Reuters out of Lagos last week, were denied by the department of foreign affairs. But industry sources would not rule out the possibility that international oil companies or the minister had spoken to the Nigerians in this regard.

In the absence of Botha who is in Kazakhstan until next Monday [22 March], a foreign affairs spokesman declared last week that the department was not aware of any oil deal with Nigeria.

She was responding to a report that Emeka Asigobu, the assistant director of the Nigerian department of petroleum resources, had said that the sale of Nigerian crude to South Africa began recently following the lifting of an apartheid-era ban on trade with Pretoria.

Given President Nelson Mandela's condemnation of last November's hangings of writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight minority activists by Nigeria's military rulers, and his call for international sanctions — including an oil embargo — the Nigerian news took South Africa by surprise.

Relations between the two countries continue to be strained — and besides, Nigerian crude is less suitable for South Africa's refineries than the heavier, cheaper Iranian product.

Should the Reuters report prove accurate, the identity of the purchaser remains a mystery.

Luden Vallun, a spokesman for South Africa's state-owned Central Energy Fund said that its subsidiary, the Strategic Fuel Fund, was unlikely to have bought Nigerian crude oil.

However, he speculated that the Nigerian announcement could reflect negotiations that Botha may have had with Nigerian officials of late.

He said Botha is also believed to have signed an oil deal with Egypt recently.

"If Pik (Botha) has not done something, then it's not the government," he said.

With the minister on his travels, no one at the ministry of mineral and energy affairs was prepared to comment.

Koosum Kalyan, a spokesman for Shell, said the local oil company had not purchased crude oil from Nigeria. Kalyan said Shell's investigations had not revealed whether another international oil company was the buyer.

She said the Nigerian report was the first she had heard of Nigeria exporting crude to South Africa.

Angus Quail, the long-range planning manager at Engen, said South Africa had traditionally bought medium-grade Persian Gulf oil. "I am not personally aware of Nigerian crude coming here," he said.

He said the Nigerians had never made strenuous efforts to market their high-grade and higher-priced crude in this country.

But Colin McClelland, the chairman of the South African Petroleum Industry Association, argued that light crude, like that produced by Nigeria, would be favourable for the bulk demand in South Africa for distillates and petrol.

He said that if South Africa is importing crude from Nigeria, it would be a welcome signal that "a rather tense situation between Nigeria and South Africa is over".

South African Press Review for 17 Apr

MB1704133796

[FBIS Report]

BUSINESS DAY

Greater Provincial Powers in Latest Draft Constitution? — "Probably the most important areas in which progress has been made in constitutional negotiations are the clauses relating to the relative powers of national and provincial governments," notes a page-10 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 17 April. The change from the last draft of the constitution to the latest, the fifth, "implies a shift from a unitary to a federal system, albeit, at this stage, a rather mild form of federalism." "This assessment is based on the fact that, in the previous version, the national legislature effectively had the power to decide whether its own legislation should override any conflicting law emanating from the provinces." "That the change

has occurred without fanfare is explained by a few pertinent points. First, there are signs that the National Party, having gone along wimpishly with the ANC on this issue, came under media pressure in its own constituency belatedly to stiffen its backbone. That, though, was probably less important than the fact that it was drawn to the ANC's attention by Democratic Party negotiators that it remained bound by the relevant principles enumerated in a schedule to the interim constitution."

THE CITIZEN

Buthelezi Urged To Remain in Unity Government — "We don't think Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Home Affairs Minister and leader of the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party], should be threatening to quit the government of national unity if local elections are postponed in KwaZulu/Natal," states the page-6 editorial in Johannesburg **THE CITIZEN** in English on 16 April. Buthelezi "suggests that the ANC call for a postponement follows research findings that the ANC will lose the elections. Whether that is so, the ANC's determination to delay the polls opens it to that interpretation." Despite the government of national unity's "failings," it is based on the premise of "national unity" and Buthelezi's walk out "would signal that divisions are so intractable that all hope of peace in KwaZulu/Natal (and the rest of the country, for that matter) is ended."

South African Press Review for 18 Apr
MB1804135396

[FBIS Report]

THE STAR

Safety Minister Committed to Free Press — Johannesburg **THE STAR** in English on 18 April in a page-26 editorial welcomes Safety and Security Minister Mufamadi's praise for the press for an investigation which "exposed shortcomings in his own department." Mufamadi reacted swiftly after **THE STAR** published more disclosures about South Africa's alleged druglord and uncovered police inefficiency. "Not only did Mufamadi welcome the investigation, but he called for an explanation from senior officers — and publicly criticised slipshod work in a linked murder case." Mufamadi's action "shows his own confidence and his commitment to democracy and a free press."

CAPE TIMES

Ramaphosa's Departure From Government — The departure of the ANC Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa

from parliamentary politics represents "a major loss for the nation's primary institution of democratic government," states a page-6 editorial in Cape Town **CAPE TIMES** in English on 16 April. The "skills and insights" of Ramaphosa "could have been usefully deployed to stamp his much-needed authority on any number of government ministries and departments in the critical coming years in which our young democracy will need to be grown and consolidated." However, he has been "entrusted with the mammoth task" of assisting South Africa "in moving from its newly achieved state of black political empowerment towards the more difficult goal of black economic empowerment."

BUSINESS DAY

Exchange Controls Inactivity Risky — A page-12 editorial in Johannesburg **BUSINESS DAY** in English on 18 April comments on Finance Minister Trevor Manuel's statement that he will "not be stampeded" into lifting exchange controls, saying there is an increasing danger that currency traders "are likely to see an immediate relaxation of exchange controls as a desperate response to additional pressure rather than as part of a considered strategy." **BUSINESS DAY** calls for "an appropriate strategy — primarily a clear exposition of the programme for removing exchange controls. The abolition of the financial rand was uneventful because it had been preceded by regular pronouncements that the dual currency system was to go. Financial authorities were seen to be acting on their promises." Though government and the Reserve Bank have been unequivocal about their intention to remove controls, delays in acting on these promises have become counter-productive."

THE CITIZEN

Rand Speculation — "We find the speculation in the rand — it dropped yesterday to a new all-time low of 4.252 to the dollar — both disconcerting and unnecessary," states Johannesburg **THE CITIZEN** in English on 17 April in its page-6 editorial. The paper believes Trevor Manuel "will prove a worthy Finance Minister," and the country "is sound enough, and has the human and physical resources, to become the powerhouse of Africa." So the government should make a "concerted move" to boost confidence "and an end to all the rumours, speculation and deliberate manipulations of the financial markets."

Malawi

Malawi: President, Tanzanian Counterpart Discuss Cooperation

EA1804110596 *Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania Network in Swahili 0400 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] President Benjamin Mkapa, who is on a visit to Malawi, has held talks with President Bakili Muluzi of Malawi on the importance of reviving the activities of the joint commission on cooperation between Tanzania and Malawi, which has not met since 1983. The two leaders also agreed to continue to allow Malawi access to Dar es Salaam port for its goods, especially for the development of northern Malawi.

Earlier, shortly after he arrived, President Mkapa met Tanzanians residing in Malawi at the Blantyre municipal hall, where he praised them for living harmoniously with their hosts. Replying to their request that Tanzania open an embassy in Malawi, President Mkapa said such action might be taken at a later date, when the economy improved. He also assured them that he would try to ensure that passports could be obtained from embassies, instead of the current practice whereby they can only be issued in Dar es Salaam, which causes inconvenience for Tanzanians living abroad.

This morning [18 April] Mkapa will open a tobacco auction in (Linde), Malawi, and is expected to return to Dar es Salaam in the afternoon after a joint communique with his host is released on relations between Tanzania and Malawi.

Mozambique

Mozambique: Tanzania's Mkapa Says Multipartism Need Not Lead to Conflict

EA1604113796 *Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania Network in English 0400 GMT 16 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Benjamin Mkapa has challenged multiparty politics in Africa saying it does not have to lead to acrimonious relations between people of opposing political views. President Mkapa made the remark in Maputo last night at a state banquet hosted in his honor by President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique.

The president, who is in a three-day state visit to Mozambique, said such a relation should not be allowed to take root in Africa. He warned that unity and solidarity of the people and development would be undermined if such relations are entertained. President Benjamin Mkapa has urged all political parties in Mozambique to ensure peace and stability become permanent features of political and development after many years of internal strife.

President Mkapa has assured Mozambique of Tanzania's position to further promote bilateral cooperation between the two countries as well as regional groupings. The president has expressed Tanzania's desire to explore with Mozambique the possibilities of implementing the idea of building a unity bridge across the Ruvuma River.

Mozambique: Tanzania's Mkapa Addresses State Banquet in Maputo

MB1704142396 *Maputo Radio Maputo in English 1110 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[Speech by Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa at a state banquet hosted by Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano in Maputo on 15 April — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed text] Today is a great day for me, marking as it does my first visit to Mozambique in my new capacity as the third president of the United Republic of Tanzania. But you know very well, Mr. President, that I am not a stranger to Mozambique, to the Mozambican people, or to their leaders. I remember vividly and with particular poignancy the years of shared solidarity and cooperation in the liberation struggle in this country, and subsequently the role both our countries played within the Frontline States to rid the entire southern African region of all forms of colonialism, apartheid oppression, and racial bigotry. At one time you, Mr. President, and I were both foreign ministers of our respective countries, and we worked closely and well, both in our region and abroad, in the cause of freedom, equality, justice, and respect for human rights. Those years of cooperation and solidarity on so noble a cause, elevating relations between our two countries [words indistinct] new liberated neighbors to become those of brothers, sisters, and comrades indeed.

So, in thanking you for your kind invitation to visit, I wish to assure you that my wife and I, as well as my entire delegation, feel too at home. And how couldn't we feel at home, bearing in mind the way you received us — you started with an outpouring of genuine warmth and hospitality, such color and friendliness. We thank you, Mr. President, and through you we wish to thank the people and Government of Mozambique for this additional expression of close, warm, and brotherly relations. We have been equally touched by the generous and most kind words you have spoken this evening about me, my country, and its people. We thank you.

But I think members of my delegation will agree with me that those words apply as much to us as they do to you and to the people of Mozambique. It is for this reason that I have the greatest pleasure in reciprocating

the sentiments you have expressed about us and our bilateral relations, and their future course of action.

Mr. President, as a new leader of a neighboring and friendly country, I should like to take advantage of this visit to reassure you of our continued and exceptional goodwill, friendship, and cooperation with yourself, your government, and the people of Mozambique. The two presidents that preceded me in the leadership of Tanzania did a wonderful job in developing and nurturing good relations with our neighboring countries in general and with Mozambique in particular. I truly see a privilege to take over the reins of leadership of my country at a time when we enjoy such excellent relations with all neighboring countries in general and with Mozambique in particular.

The development of good neighborly relations will remain a key aspect of our foreign policy. But the development of good neighborly relations will be expedited by the maintenance of internal peace and security in all neighboring countries. Conflict, even purely internal conflict, knows and respects no borders. The effect of conflict in terms of refugees, heightened tensions along borders, and so on cannot be conducive to the growth of bilateral relations between neighboring countries to their full potential. A living example of this can be seen with Tanzania's relations with Rwanda and Burundi, for while relations between the Government of Tanzania and the Governments of Rwanda and Burundi remain friendly and cordial, it is not possible for us to go beyond mere cordiality and embark upon cooperative initiatives and ventures that will translate into economic growth and development of our peoples. Instead of discussing cooperation for development, we are distracted into negotiating the repatriation of refugees, cease-fires, and getting parties to the conflict to sit down at the table and negotiate fair and equitable new political dispensations. A lot of time and resources are regrettably spent on these issues rather in cooperation for development.

It was for this reason that Tanzania followed with keen interest the internal dialogue for peace and reconciliation in Mozambique to its final conclusions, namely the peace accord of 2 October 1992, and ultimately the elections of 20-29 October 1994.

I can assure you, Mr. President, that the people of Tanzania share with you and the people of Mozambique the joy that came with the restoration of peace and the beginning of national reconciliation in your country. We also congratulate you and all the people of Mozambique for putting the interests of your country first. Despite all political and economic obstacles, you have managed to sustain peace and stability, and devote your time to national reconstruction and development. Peace and

stability is a sine qua non for rapid economic growth and development, and this truism has been well proven by your own experience in Mozambique. With the onset of peace, economic growth has picked up well, with good future prospects. We commend you for this achievement and wish you even greater successes in the years ahead.

I, therefore, urge all political parties in Mozambique to ensure that peace and stability become permanent features of politics and development in this country, thereby enhancing the international stature of Mozambique and of Africa. Multiparty politics in Africa does not have to lead to acrimonious relations between peoples of opposing political views. To allow such a development to take root is to undermine the unity and solidarity of our peoples and their aspirations for growth and development. It will also dissipate our energies and resources for development. We should instead try to put the interests of our countries and peoples first, and those interests (will then) [word indistinct] in peace, security, and unity. Good governance based on the rule of law, democratic values, and respect for human rights, as well as tolerance for opposing views remain critical elements for the success of multiparty politics in Africa. You in Mozambique have done well in this area, and we ask you to proceed along the same path.

Mr. President, I am also here to renew Tanzania's earnest desire to revise and further promote bilateral cooperation between our two countries and peoples in all spheres. This afternoon we had the opportunity to discuss various ways to achieve this goal. I wish to assure you that on our part we will leave no stone unturned in fulfilling our commitment and obligations for the (upliftment) of bilateral cooperation between our two countries, our two governments, and our two peoples. In this regard I also wish to assure you of our determination to explore [word indistinct] possibilities of implementing as early as possible the idea of building a unity bridge across the Ruvuma River. Such a bridge, besides cementing relations between our two countries, will contribute to facilitating a thriving, legal, and rational cross-border trade for the mutual benefit of our two countries.

Likewise, I wish to renew our commitment to the regional organizations of which our two countries are members. In particular I wish to mention the Southern African Development Community [SADC], an organization with a long history of shared sacrifice, commitment, and solidarity between member countries. The peace, stability, and security we now enjoy in our sub-region, as well as the tremendous goodwill, natural resources, and large markets, all provide southern Africa with unprecedented opportunities for faster economic

growth and development. Tanzania will play its key part in SADC in pursuit of the achievement of this goal.

I should also perhaps seize this occasion to say how much we in Tanzania have been pleased that your desire for Commonwealth membership has finally been realized. Please rest assured that you have in Tanzania a true and reliable friend within the Commonwealth, and we pledge to give you our full cooperation as you take up your place and discharge your role in this unique organization.

Mr. President, it is, I am told, neither wise nor healthy to speak too much at meal time. With such a delicious dinner ahead of us, this advice is more pertinent. So, now it gives me great pleasure to thank you once again for your hospitality, kindness, and friendship.

Mozambique: Tanzania's Mkapa, Chissano Issue Joint Communique

EA1704201996 Dar es Salaam Radio Tanzania Network in Swahili 1700 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tanzania and Mozambique have called for discussions to settle the prevailing crises in Rwanda, Burundi, and Sudan. The statement is contained in a joint communique issued by Presidents Benjamin Mkapa and Joachim Chissano of Mozambique shortly after their talks in Maputo. The communique urged the three countries to solve their problems under the auspices of the OAU.

Concerning cooperation in the economic sector, the presidents said that a bilateral commission of cooperation between Tanzania and Mozambique would be established to evaluate the current state of cooperation and to suggest new areas of cooperation.

President Mkapa was in Mozambique on a three-day state visit and left this morning for Malawi.

Mozambique: Lusophone Foreign Ministers Draft New Charter

LD1704213496 Lisbon RTP Internacional Television in Portuguese 1900 GMT 17 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lisbon will be the first seat of the future commonwealth of Portuguese-speaking countries. The announcement was made by Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama today in Maputo where he is participating in the drafting of the new lusophone commonwealth's charter.

[Correspondent report over video] A historic moment for the future commonwealth of Portuguese-speaking countries: In Maputo today the foreign ministers of the seven states started to draft the commonwealth's charter

as well as a final declaration to be signed at the Lisbon presidential summit next July.

The host, [President] Joaquim Chissano, touched on a fundamental point when he described the purpose of the meeting as being the construction of mechanisms to bring together the interests and concerns common to the member states.

A commonwealth scattered through three continents and with members belonging to different regional economic organizations will not be easy to operate. Common goals must be defined from the outset.

[Begin Gama recording] First and foremost the assertion of the Portuguese language internationally, as well as the assertion of the geographical space occupied by the Portuguese language in the international community. [sentence as heard] This is very important.

Second, a broad framework of international political consultation in the multilateral organizations of which we are all members — since we are all part of specific regional contexts.

And also the drawing up of cooperation projects, both at government level and inserted in civil society's countless cooperation frameworks already provided by the universities, business enterprises and research bodies, all of which clearly link up in the context of a commonwealth of Portuguese-speaking countries. [end recording]

Mozambique: Chissano Opens Lusophone Community Preparatory Conference

MB1704190396 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1600 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Starting today, Maputo is hosting a meeting to prepare for the creation of the Lusophone Community. The meeting was officially opened by President Joaquim Chissano.

[Begin Chissano recording] Mozambique regards the creation of the Lusophone Community as reflecting the desire of the seven Portuguese-speaking countries to deepen fruitful ties of friendship and cooperation for the sake of development and an improved standard of living for their people.

We have all made joint efforts to find solutions to issues of common interest. The creation of the Lusophone community will be a permanent cornerstone in our common quest to become states where there is peace, democracy, respect for the law, social justice, and development. [end recording]

Mozambique: Official Discusses First Day of Paris Club Talks*MB1704191196 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[Report by Arao Cuambe]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Cuambe] We have Dr. Luisa Diogo, deputy minister of planning and finance, on the line from the French capital. She will report on the first developments at the meeting between the Mozambican Government and the Paris Club. Good evening, Dr. Diogo. What is the latest good news from Paris?

[Diogo] Good evening. I would just like to report that this first day of talks with the Paris Club Consultative Group wound up at 1830. A number of issues were discussed today. Prime Minister Pascoal Mocumbi spoke at the opening this morning. Ms. Catherine Marshall of the World Bank is chairing the meeting, and she also addressed it. [passage omitted]

The issues raised by the donors focused principally on price stabilization and economic growth. This is part of an issue we had already discussed in Maputo, and it has to do with the stabilization program we have with the IMF and the World Bank. Another frequently raised issue was that of governance — principally the problem of the public sector's [word indistinct], decentralization, local elections, and corruption.

Finally, the donors emphasized that the debt is an obstacle to Mozambique's development. [passage omitted]

Concerning the issue of our debt, we suggested a strategy of creating a fund to pay the debt, with donors helping to pay bilateral debts or contributing by buying the debt at a discounted rate. [passage omitted]

Mozambique: Renamo Leader Urges Deputies To Act Responsibly*MB1604155096 Maputo IMPARCIAL in Portuguese 12 Apr 96 p 2*

[FBIS Translated Text] IMPARCIAL has learned from a reliable source that Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] leader Afonso Dhlakama met Renamo deputies recently. At the meeting, Afonso Dhlakama urged the deputies to act responsibly and with maturity in Parliament, presenting well-researched draft laws after consultations with different sectors of the society.

Dhlakama urged his parliamentarians to speak to the voters and carefully examine the problems facing the country because, in his view, there is neither Renamo nor parliamentarians without the voters. Our source cites Dhlakama as saying: "You need to learn a lot. Above

all, you need to understand the problems that affect the Mozambican people."

The Renamo leader said a systematic study of the problems facing the people and the presentation of sound arguments in Parliament would suffice to neutralize the ruling party's "false" majority.

Our source cites Dhlakama as saying that he possesses information that some deputies have been conducting themselves in a less-than-dignified manner inside and outside Parliament. "Your conduct should not disillusion voters and jeopardize Renamo Party chances in local government and general elections; let us be serious," he said. After listening to a number of deputies who presented their views and complaints, Afonso Dhlakama summed up saying those are problems of democracy. He said: "There is no development and there is no life without risk. All that is good always has its risks. Thus, gentlemen, please grow up, be adults, be united, and defend the good cause."

In conclusion, he suggested that Renamo deputies should contribute part of their salaries to support their constituencies "because the party has no money."

Mozambique: Official Apportions Blame Over Embezzlement of Nordic Funds*MB1804104996 Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 11 Apr 96 p 1*

[Report by Matias Mandlate]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosario has revealed that Mozambique is not entirely responsible for the widely reported embezzlement of funds donated by Nordic countries to the Emergency Seeds and Agricultural Tools Program (PESU) because the other side was involved in the management of the \$2.3 million. Do Rosario was speaking during an official visit to Inhambane last week.

Do Rosario, who noted that the case occurred over 10 years ago, said it will take years before it is settled "because to put all the pieces together we have to gather information in all provinces. There are people who must be questioned, and some of them no longer live in the country. I must, however, say that we [words indistinct] as we learn more about it." [passage omitted]

Zambia

Zambia: Newspaper Comments on Union's Attitude to Chiluba

MB1604172196 Lusaka THE POST in English
16 Apr 96

[Editorial: "Our view: Chiluba's Government not for ZCTU;" received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We appreciate the frustrations of the leadership of the Zambia Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) with their former colleagues now in government. They were misled by the former ZCTU chairman general, Frederick Chiluba, now President of the Republic of Zambia, that his government belonged to the workers. And because of the role ZCTU played in ensuring that their union boss got the presidency, they believe he owes their rank and file a lot.

ZCTU might have contributed greatly to President Chiluba's quest for political power, but they were not the only force that propelled him. The people with money also did a lot. Some were close to him even long before the birth of the Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD). In fact this was the group that was much more closer to him than the union comrades. And it is this same class that has more influence on him today.

President Chiluba is no longer a trade unionist. He left the unions five years ago and will never go back. And there is nothing like "once a trade unionist always a trade unionist." It is not correct to assume that if one was a unionist, then when he becomes president he remains loyal to workers' causes. We have seen so many people from very humble backgrounds get to the high echelons of power and turn their backs on the poor and embrace the rich. Patronizing President Chiluba because he is a former trade unionist will not earn ZCTU anything. They should treat President Chiluba and his government without regard to the old comradeship and relentlessly fight to improve the lives of their members.

Zambia: Union Blames Industry Unrest on Government Disinterest

MB1704172096 Lusaka THE POST in English
17 Apr 96

[Report by Chilombo Mwendela; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Civil Servants Union of Zambia (CSUZ) General Secretary Japhet Moonde has attributed the current industrial unrest in the country to what he has termed "lack of care for workers by employers and government leaders".

Addressing civil servants in Chibombo yesterday Moonde warned that if not properly handled the lack of respect for labour by the government and employers would cause a breach of peace in the nation.

"Unless the government and other employers learn to respect labour as an important factor of production there will be continued industrial unrest in this country," Moonde said. "This industrial unrest is likely to adversely affect peace in the nation and put the fragile democracy in danger."

Moonde observed that there was rampant exploitation of the workers by the employing authorities whose only interest was to use the workers and not address their welfare.

He revealed that most of the workers in the country were earning salaries below the poverty datum line which in turn led to shoddy output. "The workers cannot listen to excuses of government having no money when those in leadership appear to be swimming in wealth while the majority of the workers wallow in abject poverty," he charged.

In reaction to Moonde's speech chief government spokesman, Information Minister Amusaa Mwanamwambwa, urged all union leaders to desist from fueling industrial unrest. "The labour leaders have a tremendous responsibility to effectively lead and should avoid misleading those they ought to lead," Mwanamwambwa advised in an interview yesterday, adding: "Promoting industrial unrest is the last thing that any trade union leader must do."

Mwanamwambwa assured his government was making "relentless efforts to restore the economy to what it ought to be" before it was plundered by the former "socialist regime".

Zambia: Ethnic Group Warns President of 'Trouble' on Constitution

MB1604161896 Lusaka THE POST in English
16 Apr 96

[Report by Goodson Machona: "Lozis warn of 'obvious trouble';" received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Barotsse Royal Establishment Saa-Siikalo Council has joined in the call for the adoption of the constitution through a constituent assembly and have warned of "obvious trouble" if President Chiluba continues to be intransigent. According to an open letter to President Chiluba dated March 29, 1996 and made available to THE POST, the Ngambela (?king) for Barotseland, M.M. Mututwa, has urged Chiluba "to accommodate the majority's demands and

in that way avert obvious trouble which will affect all of us". "We feel that the surest solution to the impasse so very deliberately created by your attitude, is for you and your government to conform with the demands of the majority of the people of Zambia over the issue of the constitution," Mututwa writes, adding: "The Constitution of the Republic of Zambia should be adopted by a constituent assembly."

But legal affairs minister, Remmy Mushota, had last Friday [12 April] declared that government's decision to have the draft Constitution adopted by parliament "is irreversible". "The question of withdrawing the Bill is out and we have taken an irreversible [as received] decision to adopt the Constitution through parliament as one of the items on parliamentary business when it resumes sitting this month-end," Mushota said.

The Saa-Siikalo Council has also expressed misgivings at government's rejection of demands by the Civil Society, an alliance of nongovernmental organizations and Church groupings, to defer tabling of the Constitutional (Amendment) Bill to allow further debate. "We notice that you continue to reject most of the submissions and suggestions made by the Civil Society convention recently held in Lusaka. We feel that this is a very great pity," Mututwa writes, adding: "Your growing tendency of giving a deaf ear to the majority's demands is totally contrary to what you stood for when you were still in the trade union arena and even more, when we put you into power in 1991."

Meanwhile, the Saa-Siikalo Council has described as "a very dangerous trend" government's inclusion of Article 91 (4f) in the Constitutional (Amendment) Bill which, according to the council, is aimed at "tampering with the constitutional powers and duties of the judiciary". "The clause quoted above is bad law and should therefore be left out as it uproots our constitutional tree down to the tap-root," Mututwa writes, adding: "It is not only dangerous but also undemocratic and unconstitutional."

They also condemned the contradictions in the draft constitution over the citizenship issue. "Mr. President, where on earth did you hear of a constitution with two types of citizenship like the one you are creating in this country? The legislature should not pass laws aimed at individuals," Mututwa writes.

But Chiluba denied at a State House press conference last month that Article 38 (3) (a) (b), which requires presidential candidates to be second-generation Zambians, was aimed at former president, Kenneth Kaunda. "Our Constitution shall not be tailored around one man. Kaunda could not have been a factor in this report (the Mwanakatwe Constitutional Review report) because just before the commission commenced work, our dear Dr.

Kaunda had announced his retirement from politics," Chiluba said. But both Kaunda and his press aide, Muhabi Lungu, described Chiluba's remarks as "play acting".

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe: Nation's Top Human Rights Group Calls For New Constitution

MB1204152296 Johannesburg SAPA in English
 1503 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] HARARE April 12 SAPA — The Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe, the country's most influential human rights group, on Friday added its voice to growing demands for a new constitution to prevent further erosion of civil liberties by President Robert Mugabe's government.

In a statement after its recent annual meeting in Bulawayo, the commission appealed to the Zimbabwean Government to "show political maturity" and set up a constitutional commission to listen to people's views on "a truly Zimbabwean constitution".

It said the present constitution, agreed in London in 1979 by the former Rhodesian government and black nationalist guerrillas fighting to overthrow white rule, had been drafted for circumstances which no longer existed. In the last 10 years the constitution had been amended 13 times and several amendments had eroded provisions protecting liberties in the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights itself was unprotected, the statement said.

Zimbabweans had never been able to contribute to developing their own constitution. The Catholic body said it believed time had come for a commission to call for contributions on a new constitution from across Zimbabwe. The new constitution would be subjected to a referendum. Observers said the Catholic commission's statement was the most significant appeal yet for change to the constitution.

Critics of the existing constitution have described it as a "one-party state law" which grants Mugabe sweeping personal powers to override freedoms at will, while providing scant checks on abuses of power by authorities. National parliamentary elections last year and presidential elections this year were denounced by human rights organisations as unfair because of the overwhelming advantage constitutional and electoral laws gave to Mugabe's ruling ZANU-PF [Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front].

Mugabe and his cabinet ministers insist there is nothing wrong with the existing constitution.

The Justice and Peace Commission is widely respected internationally for its courageous criticism of human rights abuses by both the Rhodesian and Mugabe's regimes. Observers said the body's voice was unlikely to be ignored by Mugabe's government.

Zimbabwe: Governor Warns of Economic 'Plot' Against Government

MB1204183896 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1751 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BULAWAYO April 12 SAPA — Matabeleland North provincial governor Welshman Mabhena on Friday [12 April] warned of social unrest in Zimbabwe unless the government stopped some white-owned companies from channeling funds abroad while falsely declaring losses at home.

Mabhena told ZIANA [ZIMBABWE INTER-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY] news agency he was aware of a plot by some companies to economically sabotage the government through transfer pricing and other shady deals. "They are inciting the black man to revolt against his government through unnecessary retrenchments," he said.

His remarks come as the National Economic Conduct Inspectorate is investigating 10 Bulawayo-based manufacturing companies accused of illegally exporting profits. Mabhena said it was ironic that companies which previously advocated market reforms were now using them as an excuse to retrench workers. "Not all reasons given for the economic downturn are genuine."

Mabhena said he had observed white farmers were gradually shifting from the staple maize or beef production to game ranching and citrus production as a plot to sabotage the government. "We are not happy with the way these fellows (white farmers) are treating us. There seems to be stiff opposition. Why are they diverting from maize and beef which everyone needs?"

Mabhena said collective action was now needed to stop the trend.

Zimbabwe: Two Companies Reportedly Admit Sabotaging State Funds

MB1504163496 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1333 GMT 15 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BULAWAYO April 15 SAPA — Two Zimbabwean companies had admitted econom-

ically sabotaging the state through fraudulent export transactions, Deputy Industry and Commerce Minister Obert Mpofu said on Monday.

"There have been some admissions by executives about their involvement," he told ZIANA [ZIMBABWE INTER-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY] news agency. "Some cases have been positively identified and, from the figures shown, we feel it is just the tip of the iceberg."

A number of companies, 10 of them Bulawayo-based, are being investigated by the National Economic Conduct Inspectorate after allegations of exporting profits while falsely declaring losses at home.

According to economic experts, multinationals, corporations and their subsidiaries or companies with links outside a host country can siphon funds from the economy through unbundling, transfer pricing and re-invoicing.

White-owned companies especially in western Zimbabwe have in recent weeks been under a barrage of criticism from public officials who accuse them of being economic saboteurs.

"We are dealing here with a highly sophisticated method of weakening any country," Mpofu said, adding that Zimbabwe needed a highly professional team of financial experts to detect the crime.

Zimbabwe: Business Leaders Expect Mugabe To Reduce Size of Cabinet

MB1204164496 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1500 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zimbabwean business leaders say they expect President Robert Mugabe to reduce the size of his cabinet when he announces a long-awaited reshuffle. The executive, or chief executive, of the Confederation of Zimbabwean Industries, Mr. Joe Foroma, said he expected Mr. Mugabe to reduce the number of ministers substantially. Such a step would send the right message to the international donor community that the government was serious about cutting costs. Zimbabwean business leaders have previously urged Mr. Mugabe to reduce by half his government team of two vice presidents, 23 cabinet ministers, 15 deputy ministers, and eight provincial governors with ministerial rank. However, Mr. Mugabe and officials have refused to comment on rumors of an imminent reshuffle.

Liberia**Liberia: UN, ECOWAS, U.S. Embassy Broker Faction Negotiations**

*AB1804100596 London BBC World Service
in English 0630 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A new attempt is being made today to bring about a negotiated settlement to the conflict in the Liberian capital Monrovia. The United Nations and the West African grouping ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] are trying to arrange a meeting of the warring factions at the American Embassy.

Last night, details were still being worked out, but the American ambassador, William Milam, told us what he hoped the meeting might achieve:

[Begin recording] [Milam] I think it would be just the first step in the process of mediation of the dispute at the Barclay Training Center [BTC].

[Unidentified correspondent] Is there anything that makes you think perhaps things have now progressed to the point where something can be discussed and negotiated?

[Milam] I hope that the leaders in the BTC as well as the leaders of the other factions have concluded that it is time to try and settle the situation. There seems to be some movement forward on both sides and I am very pleased to see that. [end recording]

It is not known exactly who will be attending the meeting but Roosevelt Johnson's spokesman Madison Will says his faction will be going.

[Begin Will recording] I think this government is six month old and besides the issue with Johnson, there are several other issues that created setbacks for the peace process. You will also see that things are not happening as in keeping with schedule. We are talking about disarmament, we are talking about demobilization, and so forth. Those things that should have happened have not happened yet. Again, finally, we got to this Johnson-Taylor-Koromah issue and this brought a great setback. So I think there is a need for a meeting. [end recording]

Liberia: Ghanaians Try To Broker Cease-fire; Johnson Not Moving

*LD1804103696 Paris Radio France International
in French 0730 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In Monrovia, Liberia, a Ghanaian delegation was trying to make the most of the lull [in the fighting] yesterday [17 April] by attempting to

broker a cease-fire, but the health situation is tragic, particularly at Barclay Camp where Roosevelt Johnson's Krahn fighters are holed up together with their hostages. More than 150 deaths have been reported, including 30 caused by cholera.

A French journalist/photographer Patrick Robert was able to meet Roosevelt Johnson in that zone, where he is holed up. He spoke to our special correspondent, Francois Picard:

[Begin recording] [Robert] He seemed in good form. He smiled and was relaxed. However, he was wearing a heavy helmet and a bullet-proof jacket, and his body guards kept very close to him.

[Picard] He does not intend to leave the country, does he?

[Robert] No. We asked him how he reacted to the Nigerian suggestion that he go into exile. He answered that he felt totally safe in Liberia, that Liberia was his country, and that he saw no reason why he should go into exile. He simply accused Charles Taylor and Alhaji Kromah of creating this situation deliberately in order to remove him. He also accused the provisional government of losing credibility. He said that only ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States' Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] could solve the situation provided the ECOMOG chief of staff [COS] was replaced. Indeed, he accuses the incumbent ECOMOG COS of being an ally of Taylor and Kromah. His solution is that ECOMOG should resume control of the military situation and establish a cease-fire while redeploying ECOMOG troops in town [Monrovia]. [end recording]

Liberia: Krahn Leader Charges 'Genocide' Under Way in Monrovia

*AB1704135096 Paris AFP in English
1003 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brussels, April 17 (AFP) — A member of Liberia's collegiate presidency, George Boley, has accused two of his country's warring factions of carrying out the systematic genocide of ethnic Krahns in the embattled capital Monrovia.

Boley said Tuesday that Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and the ethnic Mandingo wing of the United Liberation Movement (ULIMO), led by Alhaji Koromah, have "begun the genocide of Krahn people".

"The genocide of the Krahn people is under way in Monrovia and the international community must put pressure on those responsible for the slaughter, Charles Taylor and Alhaji Kromah," Boley, who is leader of the

Krahn faction of the Liberia Peace Council (LPC), told AFP.

"If the intervention of an international force can prevent this massacre, we would not oppose it," he added, denouncing a decision to arrest Krahn "general" Roosevelt Johnson as a "campaign of vengeance" by Taylor and Kromah.

Boley said an order for Johnson's arrest, which plunged Monrovia into bitter conflict on April 6, was not taken by the Council of State — or collegiate presidency formed in a bid to end the west African country's civil war — but had been imposed by Taylor and Kromah on other council members "in contempt" for the Abuja accord of August 1995.

"I have had no contact with them since my departure," said the LPC leader, who has been absent from Monrovia, touring west Africa and Europe, since March 22.

"Johnson's arrest could not justify the massacre of residents of Monrovia," Boley stated, describing the NPFL leaders and ULIMO-Mandingo as "solely responsible" for the terror in the Liberian capital.

Boley also charged that the Nigerian-led African intervention force ECOMOG, which was sent to Liberia in August 1990, the eighth month of the civil war, of having failed to do its job by allowing Taylor's and Kromah's militiamen to rearm with impunity.

Boley denied that Krahn had taken hostages at the Barclay Training Centre, a former barracks in the capital where between 20,000 and 50,000 refugees have gathered, to use them as human shields in the event of attack by the NPFL and Krahn Mandingo.

Reports gathered by AFP said that some 600 hostages had been taken.

"There were never any hostages; these people are Krahn refugees who took arms in the camp to defend themselves," said Boley, who said he had been in contact with Barclay by telephone.

He called for a ceasefire, but said that an end to fighting could only come from the NPFL and ULIMO-Mandingo.

Though sworn enemies, Taylor and Kromah launched an assault on the Barclay centre on Tuesday. Johnson is thought still to be inside the camp. He was ousted last month as head of a Krahn faction called ULIMO-J, but is considered still to enjoy widespread support.

"Negotiations will still be possible if Taylor and Kromah cease their activities which lead straight to the genocide of my people," he stated.

A total of 1,826 people including 328 Americans have been evacuated from Monrovia where the fighting broke out after police tried to arrest Johnson on murder charges, according to the US State Department.

A State Department spokesman added that US officials were able to deliver food and water to some 15,000 Liberians who have found refuge in a diplomatic compound called the Greystone located near the US embassy in Monrovia.

The United States is continuing its diplomatic contacts to try to persuade the parties to return to the Abuja peace process that was initiated in the Nigerian federal capital in August, he added.

Liberia: Total of 150 Dead in Barclay Barracks; Cholera Claims 30

LD1704135196 Paris Radio France International in French 1300 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Liberia, an official for the Barclay Barracks in Monrovia has announced the death of 150 people over the last few days. Tens of thousands of people are holed up in the camp in the Liberian capital. The barracks has been under attack by two armed factions since yesterday [16 April]. Cholera has reportedly led to the death of 30 people within the camp.

Liberia: Correspondent Reports Situation Inside BTC 'Desperate'

AB1704163996 London BBC World Service in English 1505 GMT 17 Apr 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Over the past 10 days, the trouble in the Liberian capital, Monrovia, seems to have become focused on the Barclay Training Center barracks, the BTC. Forces of Alhaji Koromah's ULIMO-K [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Koromah] and Charles Taylor's NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] have been laying siege to the barracks, which is the headquarters of the Krahn Armed Forces of Liberia. They are seen as supporters of wanted man Roosevelt Johnson, the ousted leader of ULIMO-J, who is believed by some to be sheltering inside the BTC. It is also being claimed that civilians, aid workers, and members of the ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] peace-keeping force are being held hostage in the BTC, and apparently conditions in the besieged barracks have been worsening rapidly this week. Well, our correspondent Nyenati Allison has managed to get inside the BTC. He telexed this report:

The scene around the BTC barracks is one of devastation with thousands of people milling around. When I walked through the no-man's-land around the barracks this afternoon, there were decomposing bodies all over the streets. Inside the barracks, there are thousands of civilians and fighters sheltering from the NPFL/ULIMO-K bombardment, and bodies of sick and dying people all around.

When I reached the barracks gate, some of the ULIMO-J fighters shouted out: Here is Nyenati Allison. When he comes in, we won't let him out. I decided to go in anyway, and found the situation inside was desperate. Numerous casualties lay around with no medical personnel to take care of them. Most casualties seemed to be civilian. I met one 21-year-old woman who had the lower part of her jaw and chin blown off by a mortar shell. She was able to scribble a message to us that she had been injured on Easter Sunday. As well as the injured, there are also cholera victims. One woman lay close to death with a three-month-old baby on the floor beside her. Close by, there is a church building where about 1,000 women and children have little shelter from any bombardment.

I managed to speak to an LPC [Liberian Peace Council] commander, General Tay Quiah, who said he was fighting only to protect himself. He said that Taylor and Koromah were fighting in order to grab power, but the LPC could not stand by while they did so. He added that if assaults on the BTC continued, the LPC would launch a decisive retaliation. The AFL [Armed Forces of Liberia] chief of staff in the BTC, General Philip Kamah, said that the AFL was not involved in the initial fighting, and he still regarded Taylor and Koromah as the principal commanders, but he said their forces had attacked the BTC without checking if Roosevelt Johnson was really inside.

Liberia: Taylor on Efforts To Free Hostages, Clean Up City

LD1704185996 Paris Radio France International in French 1730 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent in Liberia Francois Picard was able to meet Charles Taylor, one of the members of the Council of State, who is laying siege to the Barclay camp.

[Begin Taylor recording, in English with superimposed French translation] We are very concerned because this government has done everything to restore law and order. For this reason we must face up to the present situation.

There is no anarchy. If you go into town, you will see that people are going home and that efforts are being made to clean up the city.

We are also making efforts to free the hostages. A special unit is trying to achieve this and limit as much as possible the number of people killed or wounded, God willing. [end recording]

Nigeria

Nigeria: Lagos To Grant Asylum to Liberia's Johnson If 'Necessary'

AB1704191896 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1800 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nigeria says she is prepared to give one of Liberia's faction leaders, Mr. Roosevelt Johnson, political asylum. This is part of efforts to end the conflict in Liberia. Renewed fighting began 10 days ago when law enforcement agents attempted to arrest Mr. Johnson on charges of murder. Nigeria's Foreign Minister Chief Tom Ikimi said that peace in Liberia was a priority, and Mr. Johnson would be given political asylum if it became necessary. Earlier, forces loyal to one of the faction leaders, Mr. Charles Taylor, had launched an attack on the supporters of Roosevelt Johnson.

Nigeria: Liberians Warned Against Taking ECOMOG for Granted

AB1804085996 Paris AFP in English 0208 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, April 18 (AFP) — Nigeria reiterated a warning Wednesday [17 April] that the patience of countries helping to pacify Liberia was running out and that Liberians should [not] take the presence of ECOMOG peacekeepers "for granted".

Nigerian defence ministry spokesman General Fred Chijuka "cautioned Liberia today (Wednesday) against taking the countries sacrificing for peace in their country for granted, the official news agency NAM reported.

"Enough is enough...Liberians should know that countries helping them are losing their patience," NAN quoted Chijuka as saying.

On Tuesday, Nigerian Foreign Minister Tom Ikimi raised the threat of a pullout of the Nigerian-dominated ECOMOG west African peacekeeping force if the force judged that it did not have the means to fulfill its peacekeeping mandate.

Ikimi criticised the international community for not doing enough to aid ECOMOG and warned that the

force might be withdrawn unless Washington gave it "serious" financial support.

In another development, Ikimi was quoted here as saying Wednesday that Nigeria might grant asylum to "General" Roosevelt Johnson, the leader of ULIMO-K — the Krahn tribal faction of the United Liberation Movement — whose supporters plunged Monrovia into a new round of bloodshed after an attempt by rival warlords to detain their leader.

Yormie Johnson, a former Liberian warlord and leader of the Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia — a splinter group of Charles Tylor's NPFL — has been living in Nigeria for more than four years after being granted asylum by the government.

Nigeria: Further on Ethnic Clashes in Taraba State
*AB1704192796 London BBC World Service
in English 1505 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There have been reports this week of bloody disturbances in Nigeria's north eastern state of Taraba. It's a flare-up of old rivalries between the Fulani and Karimjo people. In the past, it's been over such issues as land and grazing. Now, it seems an attempted rape set off violent clashes in the town of Karim Lamido. There have been reports of a lot of deaths and injuries, and it is apparently difficult to get into the town. Our reporter in the state capital Yola, Abdulai Tasihi Abubakar, has been talking to the local police commissioner to find out the latest. Josephine Hazely asked him what the commissioner said:

[Begin recording] [Tasihi] When I spoke to the police commissioner, Alhaji Yahaya Musa, he told me that the police had been able to restore normalcy in the area. He said law and order had been restored in the area and that the place is right now calm but I saw some troops, some armed policemen still being sent to the affected areas.

[Hazely] Okay, so what else did the commissioner tell you?

[Tasihi] The commissioner had actually spoken of the normalcy of the situation and he had been appealing to the people to go back to their normal businesses because, according to him, normalcy had already been restored.

[Hazely] Now, but it was only yesterday that we had the reports of more fighting.

[Tasihi] Yes, there were reports yesterday that fighting was going on in one village, Sangari, and we were not able to know at the moment whether initially

that fighting had (?gone) within the level which the police was not able to control but, according to the commissioner, the police have been able to control virtually all the fighting. So we will not say (?yes) because no one has been able to go there other than the police themselves.

[Hazely] Let me get this straight. You have not been able to go there because it is not open to the public or is it because it is difficult to get there?

[Tasihi] There are two things involved here. There has been a very large presence of the police and they all try to prevent people from going there, and the refugees who had left the area very recently spoke of so many atrocities. So, nobody was trying to go there because, first, the security will not allow people to go in and, second, it was very unsafe.

[Hazely] How big a contingent has the police got in Taraba State?

[Tasihi] According to the sources, police sources said about 500 armed policemen were drafted into the area but some are still being drafted. So, at the moment, no one can say exactly the number of police drafted there and like we said earlier, there were armed police from Adamawa and Bauchi States who were deployed to help the police in Taraba in controlling the situation.

[Hazely] Have you had any reports of more refugees coming in today from Taraba State to escape the insecurity in that state?

[Tasihi] As of today, we haven't had any reports of refugees coming in again but the refugees that have been around were reported to have been well-taken care of by the government. Despite this, there has been some report in some areas that some of the refugees are out on the streets begging because of inadequate care. [end recording]

Nigeria: Tribal Leaders Arrested Following Inter-Ethnic Violence

*AB1804085196 Paris AFP in English
2323 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Lagos, April 17 (AFP) — Police arrested the traditional chiefs of two ethnic communities involved in bloody clashes along the Cameroon border in southeastern Nigeria, the state-run press agency NAN reported on Wednesday [17 April].

On Tuesday, the independent daily Tribune reported that inter-ethnic clashes killed around 700 people over the past week in Cross River state.

NAN did not say how many people were arrested, and did not give any casualty toll.

No official toll was published either, although a government official on Tuesday confirmed the clashes. He said the newspaper's toll was exaggerated.

According to witness reports collected on Wednesday by AFP, the clashes left some 200 dead.

The NAN agency, quoting a Cross River police official, blamed the flare-up in violence, which began on April 1, over a property dispute between Ugep and Adim tribesmen in the regions of Yakur and Biase.

Public buildings, including schools, were destroyed by fires and women and children from both communities fled villages fearing an escalation of violence, according to Tuesday's report in the Tribune.

The state's military administrator, Colonel Gregory Agbonemi, has ordered stepped up security to restore calm to the area and announced an enquiry into the clashes, NAN added.

On Monday, NAN reported that 80 people were killed in separate clashes last week in Taraba state in the northeast between Fulani and Karimojo herdsmen.

Nigeria: Council of State Ends Meeting on Elections, Transition

AB1804090596 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The meeting of the National Council of State has ended in Abuja. The head of state, General Sani Abacha, presided over the meeting. State House correspondent, Oji Oghonia Oji, now reports:

[Begin Oji recording] The meeting had specifically convened to evaluate, reassess, and analyze the conduct of the just-concluded local government elections on nonparty basis. The chairman of the National Electoral Commission of Nigeria [NECON], Chief Sumner Dagogo-Jack, backed by all the national commissioners who (?supervised) the elections in their respective zones, briefed the council on their experiences. The administrator of Plateau State, Colonel Mohamed Mana, who briefed State House correspondents shortly after the meeting, said only the conduct of the elections and arrangements for the next stage of the transition program were discussed at the meeting. Col. Mana declined comments on the Hajj problems seemingly being encountered by intending pilgrims and said it was not part of the discussions at the meeting. He announced that from the records made available by NECON, [words indistinct] Nigerians voted at the elections. Col. Mana also disclosed that from all available facts on ground, the turnout in that election remains the highest in recent times.

All the state administrators who were present at that meeting emerged from the Aso Council Chambers with intelligent remarks on the successes so far recorded in the implementation of the transition program. [Words indistinct] service chiefs, Major General Musa Bamayi, chief of Army staff; and Air Vice Marshal Nsikak Eduok, chief of Air staff; also took part in the deliberations for the first time in their new capacities. Other service chiefs, the chief of general staff, and secretary to the Government of the Federation were also part of the council session, which lasted about six hours. [end recording]

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone: More Evacuees, UNOMIL Officials Arrive From Liberia

AB1804095896 London BBC World Service in English 0630 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] More refugees have been fleeing the crisis in Monrovia. Yesterday, two boats arrived in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Alhassane Sylla reports:

[Begin recording] [Sylla] A frenzied atmosphere reigned at the government wharf port in Freetown yesterday as hundreds of people of various nationalities thronged the port to find out whether their relations or friends were aboard a boat that berthed there, packed full of evacuees from war-torn Monrovia. The boat itself has some 509 persons on board, including Sierra Leoneans, Liberians, Lebanese, Indians, and a mixture of personnel from the ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] force, and United Nations staff, 25 of whom are members of the military observer group, UNOMIL [UN Observer Mission in Liberia]. The most high-ranking officer among them is Malaysian, Brigadier General Wahid Angoua. He says they decided to pull out because the security situation in Monrovia is no longer tenable.

[Angoua] The main reason is security, and the second reason is that we have lost all our assets in the conflict. So, in terms of transportation, in terms of office equipment, in terms of fuel, we have zero assets on the ground now.

[Sylla] But how do Liberians themselves feel about the situation back home? Among those Liberian refugees who disembarked from the port is Cletus Waterfield, a one-time minister in the government of late President Tolbert.

[Waterfield] We signed an agreement where the government was notarized and we had hoped that the international community would have provided the logistics

for the peacekeeping force. Unfortunately, none of these things has come. Things that have come are used trucks there and then you have the UN team, UNOMIL, that is supposed to be monitoring peace but there is no peace so what can they monitor? So, there has to be some funds. The international community needs to realize the dilemma that the country is in because we are not too sure where we are going. If nothing is done, there will be no Liberia.

[Sylla] Some 200 of the evacuees have already sought asylum with the United Nations high commissioner for refugees, UNHCR, here. An officer in charge for UNHCR, Kalik Abi Singh, says they will take to a camp for refugees and take care of them for as long as they stay here.

[Singh] The refugee has the right to stay in the country of asylum (?as part of his visit) until the situation of his country of origin comes back to normal. We will be taking care of them.

[Sylla] Meanwhile, a second boat that berthed at the port still has its refugees, mostly able-bodied young men, on board. The authorities here have refused to let them disembark and negotiations were still going on last night. But it is generally believed that the government wants to avoid a repetition of a situation in the past when Liberian refugees turned themselves into an armed group and caused widespread (?looting) in this country. [end recording]

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